

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9478

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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TAGS: SNAR, EG

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS OF DEA OFFICER SALM: EMBASSY'S COMMENTS

REF CAIRO 941

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF DEA SPECIAL AGENT SALM, WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED SHORT TDY IN CAIRO TO STUDY GOE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM (REFTEL), ARE PROVIDED HERewith. EMBASSY ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND FAVORS INCREASED MATERIAL AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO EGYPTIAN ANTI-NARCOTICS ADMINISTRATION. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT AT THIS STAGE, HOWEVER, TO KEEP SUCH ASSISTANCE WITHIN LIMITS OF GOE CAPABILITIES AND PRIORITIES, WHICH CENTER ON ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS YET SUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION, IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS INTERDICTION, TO WARRANT PERMANENT DEA PRESENCE IN CAIRO. EMBASSY WISHES TO COMMEND SALM ON EXCELLENT DRAFT REPORT, AND LOOKS FORWARD TO OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AND COMMENT ON FINAL REPORT. WE BELIEVE IT USEFUL, HOWEVER, FOR DEPT AND EA TO HAVE OUR PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS

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AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. SALM'S ANALYSIS OF GOE ANTI-NARCOTICS ADMINISTRATION (ANA), INCLUDING EFFORTS OF ITS DIRECTOR GENERAL FARAG TO

RAISE ITS STANDARDS AND IMPROVE ITS CAPABILITIES, COINCIDES WITH AND LARGELY CONFIRMS EMBASSY'S OWN OBSERVATIONS. GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY THAT WE ACCORD TO INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AS WELL AS TO PROMOTION OF COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH GOE, EMBASSY STRONGLY FAVORS INCREASED ASSISTANCE TO THE ANA, ESPECIALLY IN ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT, DEVELOPMENT OF IMPROVED NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE PROGRAMS AND TRAINING. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, WE STRUCK BY LOW PRIORITY GOE HAS TRADITIONALLY ACCORDED NARCOTICS CONTROL, DESPITE SOME RECENT PROGRESS BY GENERAL FARAG IN ATTRACTING GREATER SUPPORT FOR HIS ORGANIZATION. EMBASSY FEELS THAT, TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE, USG ASSISTANCE TO GENERAL FARAG'S EFFORTS AT THIS STAGE MUST BE WITHIN CONTEXT OF GOE PRIORITIES, WHICH IN AREA OF NARCOTICS CONTROL FOCUS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL AS OPPOSED TO INTERNATIONAL, ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES.

3. INSTITUTION OF MODEST PROGRAM OF INCREASED TRAINING AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO ANA COULD CONTINUE TO BE COORDINATED BY EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICER, WITH DEA PERSONNEL PROVIDING REQUISITE TRAINING AND ADVISORY EXPERTISE ON TDY BASIS. BUT EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT SUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION EXISTS, IN TERMS OF IMPACT ON INTERDICTION OF DRUG TRAFFIC TO US, FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT DEA PRESENCE IN CAIRO AT THIS TIME. ANA NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE FILES MAY INDEED TURN OUT TO BE GOLD MINE OF EXPLOITABLE INFORMATION, BUT THEIR EXTENT, USEFULNESS, AND AVAILABILITY TO USG REMAIN TO BE PROVEN. ANA HAS HARDLY BEEN FORTHCOMING WITH INTELLIGENCE UP TO NOW. EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT THIS DUE SOLELY OR EVEN PRIMARILY TO ABSENCE OF DEA PRESENCE, SINCE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH EMBASSY NCO ALREADY EXISTS. EMBASSY WELCOMES VISIT OF EA PERSONNEL ON TDY TO RENDER ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO ANA AND TO ESTABLISH CLOSER OPERATIONAL LIAISON WITH VIEW TO EXPLORING AVAILABILITY AND USEFULNESS OF ANA INTELLIGENCE RESOURCES.

4. RE SALM'S RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSISTANCE TO ANA IN PLANNING OR DESIGNING NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING (REFTEL PARA 3), LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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EMBASSY, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, DOES NOT WISH TO PROVIDE EVEN INITIAL ASSISTANCE INVOLVING BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, ON GROUNDS THAT (A) GOE POSSESSES SUCH CAPABILITIES AND (B) INVOLVEMENT IN DESIGN PHASE INEVITABLY RAISES UNWARRANTED GOE EXPECTATIONS FOR USG FINANCING.

5. WITH RESPECT TO SALM'S SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSIGNMENT OF DEA OFFICER TO CAIRO ON 90-DAY TDY FOR PURPOSE OF GAUGING USEFULNESS OF PERMANENT DEA PRESENCE (REFTEL PARA 5), EMBASSY WELCOMES SUCH TDY ASSIGNMENT AND BELIEVES OFFICER COULD BE MOST USEFUL IN DETERMINING HOW WE MAY BEST PROCEED.

6. EMBASSY WISHES AGAIN TO COMMEND S/A SALM ON EXCELLENT
DRAFT REPORT, AND LOOKS FORWARD TO OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AND
COMMENT UPON FINAL REPORT. WE BELIEVE IT IS USEFUL, HOWEVER,
FOR DEPT AND DEA TO HAVE OUR PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS AT THIS
TIME.
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